

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1-52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously Presented) A method for marking a site within the body of a mammalian patient from which a tissue sample has been removed, said method comprising the step of:

A. introducing into the site a detectable marker that (i) remains present at the site in sufficient quantity to permit detection and location of the site for at least a predetermined first time period after introduction and (ii) does not interfere with imaging of tissue adjacent the site at a predetermined second time point after introduction.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the detectable marker is imageable, and wherein the marker remains present at the site in sufficient quantity to allow detection of the site by imaging of the marker at said first time point but clears sufficiently from the site so as to not interfere with imaging of tissue adjacent the site at said second time point.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the imaging method by which the detectable marker is detected is selected from the group of imaging methods consisting of:

X-ray;
fluoroscopy;
mammography;
magnetic resonance imaging;
ultrasound; and
possible combinations thereof.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the marker is detectable by palpation.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 wherein the palpable marker is selected from the group consisting of:

at least one pellet;
a flowable space occupying material;
a collagenous material;
a gelatinous material;
gelatin; and
possible combinations thereof.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the marker is visually detectable.

59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 58 wherein the visually detectable marker is a colored substance selected from the group consisting of:

- a dye;
- a coloring agent;
- ~~carbon~~; and
- possible combinations thereof.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the detectable marker is detectable by a detection method selected from the group consisting of:

- imaging of the marker;
- palpation of the marker;
- visualization of the marker; and
- possible combinations thereof.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the detectable marker introduced in Step A comprises:

- a detectable material that will interfere with imaging of tissues adjacent thereto and which remains present at the site in sufficient quantity to permit location of the site by imaging until

the first time point but clears sufficiently from the site to not interfere with imaging of tissue adjacent the site at said second time point.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the detectable marker introduced in Step A comprises:

a quantity of detectable material that, if introduced into the site alone, would clear from the site such that a detectable quantity of the marker would no longer be present at the site at 2 weeks after introduction of said detectable marker; and,
a clearance delaying element that delays the clearance of said material from the site such that (i) a detectable quantity of said material remains present at the site until at least 2 weeks after introduction of said detectable marker and (ii) said material clears sufficiently from the site to permit imaging of tissue adjacent to the site without interference from said detectable marker at said second time point.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 wherein the detectable material is a lipid.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 wherein the clearance delaying element is selected from the group consisting of:

polylactic acid;
polyglycolic acid;
an encapsulating material;
collagen;
gelatin; and
the possible combinations thereof.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the detectable marker comprises a material that is detectable by radiographic imaging means.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the detectable marker comprises a material that is detectable by sonographic imaging means.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the detectable marker comprises a material that is detectable by magnetic imaging means.

68. (Canceled)

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the detectable marker comprises a sponge.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the detectable marker comprises a liquid.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the detectable marker comprises a flowable material.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the detectable marker comprises a collagenous material having radiographically imageable matter attached thereto.

73-74. (Canceled)

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 72 wherein the radiographically imageable matter comprises ions.

76. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 74~~ claim 72 wherein the radiographically imageable matter comprises a radiopaque marker.

77-79. (Canceled)

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 72 wherein the detectable marker comprises a gelatinous material having radiographically imageable matter combined therewith.

81-82. (Canceled)

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80 wherein the radiographically imageable matter comprises ions.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80 wherein the radiographically imageable matter comprises a radiopaque marker.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80 wherein the gelatinous material of the marker comprises gelatin and the radiographically imageable matter of the marker comprises ions that are bound to said gelatin.

86-89. (Canceled)